

2020_10_05 HMCA BoD meeting minutes
Meeting held remotely, via Zoom

Present: Diana Todd, Nancy Anderson, Pieter van Loon, Mike Purcell, Sarah Robb Grieco, Francie Marbury

- Call to order 7:05 pm.
- Board business
 - Review agenda
 - Officially record approval of minutes of June 29, 2020 meeting (already approved via email). Approved.
 - Review Board membership
 - Terms expiring in January: Diana (2nd term) term limited and cannot continue, Carol (filling uncompleted term) will accept a new 3 year term; Jack (1st term) will accept a new 3 year term
 - Potential new Directors - Nancy and Francie have been an ad hoc nominating committee. A few approaches have been made so far – one definitely interested and two thinking about it. Nancy reported that she and Francie are continuing to pursue other possible directors.
 - Budget
 - Treasurer's report - see attached
 - Review and approve 2021 budget proposal - see attached
 - Sara moved to accept budget; Pieter seconded.
 - Discussion - Diana asked whether \$700 proposed for professional help in addressing invasives was enough. Pieter indicated that \$700 is about what it costs for a professional to chemically treat one acre. Consensus was to stick with that figure this year and adjust as needed in future years. See item below - formation of ad hoc invasives committee
 - Budget approved unanimously.
 - Online storage/file sharing update
 - Sarah and Diana have been working on this. We already have an archive but does not allow for sharing files, including photographs. They recommend using the Google platform which provides 30 gigabytes of storage which should be ample. Still some questions about auto-syncing. To be confirmed at next meeting.
- Planning
 - Established a schedule of standard yearly trail maintenance activities (see attached)
 - We will pick specific dates to use each year; dates that we can count on and put into our activity calendar so that we don't have conflicts.
 - Establish a plan for dealing with invasives
 - Form ad hoc committee to draft a plan - Jack, Pieter, Sarah
- Reports
 - Trail Committee
 - Mike reported on huge tree that had fallen across the Cross Mountain Trail. Trail rerouting will be required.

- Issue with impromptu trails at Hogback true summit on north side of Route 9. People have created cut-throughs where switchbacks were created. ATV use has exacerbated the situation.
 - Diana discovered site of a campfire on White's Loop. This is not permitted (by signs at kiosks) . Decision that kiosks are best place for this info. Diana will take apart fire circle to discourage copycat.
 - Emerald Ash Borer monitoring effort (Pieter)
 - Pieter set up several traps.
 - No clear that evidence of this insect so far. Girdled tree to stress it so that it would be attractive to EAB
 - Monitoring will continue
 - Bird banding
 - Fall banding by Eric Slayton
 - Sarah and Francie reported that this project involves many volunteers and that Eric is enthusiastic about promoting citizen science, especially with younger folks.
 - Potential for Motus antenna on Hogback
 - A New England-wide network of antennas to track migrating birds is being created by NH Audubon using a multi-million dollar grant.
 - Best site for this will be the Distillery
 - Need \$5000 match. HMCA supports this but will not take lead on fundraising. Other groups being sought.
 - Management Plan Update
 - No action so far
 - Vernal Pool project
 - Diana was contacted by David Erickson about project for Vernal Pool #6 on the Biodiversity Inventory map. He wants to adopt this pool as an official monitor in the program overseen by VCE (Vermont Center for Ecostudies).
 - HMCA supports this use and determined that permit not required.
 - Drones
 - Carol brought up use of drones being operated from fire tower. Issue of noise pollution, privacy, and constraint on use of fire tower as they were monopolizing the tower. Questions as to whether something related to this could be included in the Management Plan. Nancy said that State Park needs to be involved. Pieter suggested this needs research and may be difficult to restrict. To be discussed further at next meeting.
- Adjourned at 8:17pm
 - motion made by Pieter to adjourn; seconded by Nancy
 - next meeting, Jan 4, 2021